

Ministry of the Environment programs and initiatives

Changes to Ontario's regulation of septic systems and hauled sewage

Small on-site septic systems

On April 6, 1998 the *Services Improvement Act* transferred most of the regulation for small on-site septic systems (those handling less than 10,000 litres a day) from the *Environmental Protection Act* to the *Building Code Act*. Municipalities are now responsible for inspecting and approving septic systems.

This change follows from a recommendation by the government's Who Does What Panel for a one-window approach to issuing building permits, including permits for septic systems.

Boards of health and conservation authorities will continue to carry out inspections and approvals of septic systems in Northern Ontario and will handle most current or outstanding orders and appeals. They will issue use permits for systems that have received certificates of approval before April 6, 1998, as long as construction begins before Oct. 5, 1998.

For information about the *Building Code Act* call Rob Dowler, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, (416) 585-6503.

Large and communal systems

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) will continue to inspect and approve off-lot (e.g. communal) systems as well as those that are designed to handle more than 10,000 litres of sewage a day.

These systems are defined as sewage works in the Ontario Water Resources Act

and require a certificate of approval under the legislation.

For instructions on how to apply for certificates of approval for large and communal septic systems, please see the ministry's Guide for Applying for Approval of Municipal and Private Sewage Works.

The guide may be obtained from the MOE by calling (416)314-8001 or toll-free 1-800-461-6290.

Copies are also available at district offices.

Hauled sewage

Regulation 347 of the *Environmental Protection Act* has been amended. If you transport, store and dispose of sewage you must now obtain a certificate of approval from the MOE. The ministry requires complete information on the company's waste management systems, including storage and disposal sites.

If you plan to use more or fewer waste management sites, you should apply to a MOE district office for an amended certificate.

Licences that have been previously issued under the *Environmental Protection Act* are considered to be provisional certificates of approval, provided licencees send information on their waste management systems to the ministry.

Provisions for changing a licence to a certificate of approval are set out in Regulation 156 of the *Environmental Protection Act*.

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The Services Improvement Act (formerly Bill 152) has changed the way septic systems and hauled sewage are regulated. Most septic systems are now regulated under the Building Code Act. Large and off-lot (e.g. communal) systems are defined as sewage works and come under the Ontario Water Resources Act. The definition of hauled sewage in Regulation 347 of the Environmental Protection Act has also been changed and haulers of septic waste now require a certificate of approval from the Ministry of the Environment.
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For more information about approvals for
large and communal sewage works and
hauled sewage

Ministry of the Environment
Approvals Branch
Janusz Budziakowski
(416) 314-8223

For more information about hauled
sewage sites and systems

Ministry of the Environment
Approvals Branch
Geoff Carpentier
(416) 314-8226.

Copies of the *Services Improvement Act*,
the *Environmental Protection Act*,
the *Ontario Water Resources Act* and the
Building Code Act are available from
Publications Ontario.

Write to:
50 Grosvenor St.
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
or phone (416) 326-5300
or, outside Toronto,
1-800-668-9938

